

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MEETING SUMMARY**

Tuesday December 4, 2012

Worcester Public Library, 4th floor, Oak Room – 5:30 p.m.

Attendees:

ACSW Members: Chairperson Sarah Gruhin, Chantel Bethea, Kathleen Linton, Karen Manson and Elizabeth Tomaszewski

Others Present: Jayna Turчек, Director of Human Rights & Disabilities, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf

Call to Order

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:46 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Ms. Bethea, seconded by Ms. Tomaszewski, the Committee voted to approve the minutes from October 24, 2012 as written by a vote of 5-0-0.

Discussion of future meeting times

Members confirmed monthly meetings will continue on the first Tuesday of every month (except January which due to the holiday will be the following Tuesday, January 8th). Ms. Turчек will confirm if room 401 at City Hall or the Oak Room in the library are available.

Membership Update

Ms. Turчек confirmed that Daisy Reeves is no longer a member. Ms. Turчек updated the membership list online and printed out a copy for the members. Members reported that they have conducted outreach to potential new members and applications should be coming in shortly to the Citizen Advisory Council (CAC). Ms. Gruhin and Ms. Turчек shared that the MA Commission on the Status of Women may soon have a Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women. The bill is expected to be voted on before the new year. Ms. Gruhin will follow up with Jill Ashton, staff of the MA Commission on the Status of Women, to share names of possible members for the County Commission and welcome any women who are not selected from representing the City of Worcester in the County Commission to join the City Commission.

Review of draft letter to schools regarding temporary suspension of the Young Women of Consequence Award for 2013.

Ms. Gruhin drafted a letter for review and Ms. Tomaszewski added additional edits. One additional typo was corrected. Ms. Turчек will mail out to the schools on Commission letterhead.

Review of SWOT Analyses for the following topics:

- 1 – Women’s Health Education
- 2 – Domestic Violence
- 3 – STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

The Committee reviewed the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analyses of the above three topics. Members discussed the Women’s Health Education listing the strengths as (1) awareness, (2) Broad based education , (3) All own, multiple topics and (4) Friendly topic. Weaknesses listed were (1) Too many resources and (2) What to do exactly? The opportunities listed were (1) visibility, and (2) connect with other people and boost membership. Members agreed to start

work on Women's Health Education and to address the other two topics at another time. Ms. Turchek passed around the updated ACSW brochure and the Women's Resources brochure developed by the ACSW. Members agreed to look into what is currently being done in the city around women's health education. Members will explore what is on the calendar for 2013 and what events it might be helpful for us to co-sponsor. It is also important to know what is already being done so our efforts are not duplicative. Ms. Manson will work on a public relations piece to assist members in communicating with others about the work of the commission. Ms. Manson will outreach to UMass. Ms. Tomaszewski will outreach to St. Vincent, Southeast Asian Center, and Linda Cavaioli (Worcester representative on the MA Commission on the Status of Women). Ms. Bethea will contact the YWCA. Ms. Gruhin, Ms. Manson and Ms. Bethea will go through the Women's Resource brochure to update the contacts and confirm they still want to be in the brochure. When contacting those agencies listed in the brochure members will also inquire about the agency's current work/initiatives/events related to women's health education. Members will come to the January meeting with their lists of research.

Other Business

Ms. Bethea announced that Women in Action will be holding an awards ceremony to recognize small business owners and entrepreneurs in the city. The event will be held on January 19th from 12-4pm in the public library, Saxe room. Mayor Petty will be giving out awards and other elected officials are also invited. There will be food and entertainment. Nomination forms have already gone out. Ms. Bethea will send out nomination forms to the members if they would like to nominate someone. There was a discussion about whether the award's ceremony is something the commission could co-sponsor. The awards will be going to men and women but Ms. Bethea suggested the commission could sponsor one award specifically for women. Ms. Bethea will write up a proposal to be considered at the January meeting.

Ms. Turchek announced (and passed out flyers) that members are invited to a training for city employees and volunteers on what to do if you suspect abuse of persons with disabilities or the elderly. The training will be January 30, 2013 from 2-4pm at the Worcester Senior Center. Ms. Turchek also reviewed information available on the city's webpage. In particular she highlighted that the flags on the bottom of the homepage will translate the page into the language of that flag. She also reviewed where to find the city's calendar that lists events and meetings and discussed how to find information about the commission and where to send interested members to find out more information about the commissions and how to apply for membership. See www.worcesterma.gov

Adjournment

On a motion that was duly made the Committee adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayna Turchek